



Christmas in July Back 2 School GST-Free

Get your School Supplies on July 31, Emancipation Day, & August 2



Belizeans are at the starting blocks ready for the first GST-free spending spree a la Back 2 School style. Like housing, NHI countrywide, free Education, low unemployment, lowering crime and more, this is one measure implemented to place a major pinch at the cost of living. Name the sector and you will find a curbing the cost of living initiative.

Here are some examples: Security forces have their commissary; Transport has fuel price control and subsidies; many workers have a higher Income Tax threshold; teachers have raises approved; Agriculture & Tourism have several grant sources; single parents have land and housing; parents have free education, healthy start, school fees aid and now a pair of GST-free weekends.

□ Pg.2

**Triple 8's Repairs | UB Subvention | 2nd Volleyball Gold
Historic Sugar Ruling | Shrimps to Taiwan| DFC MoU**

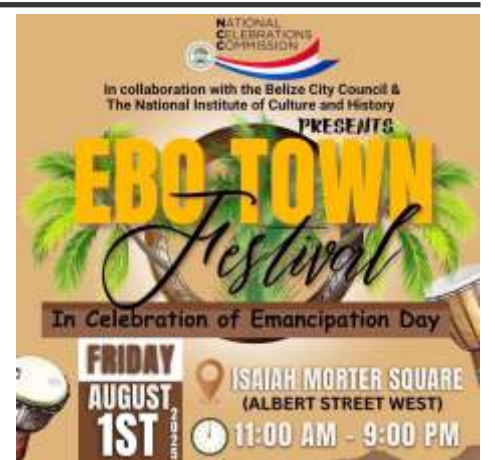
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN NOW

PlanBelize 2.0

□ Pg.2

**Belize 5th Celebration
of Emancipation Day
EBOE TOWN
in Belize City**

□ Pg.5



Sizzling Summer Camps 2025 Wrap-up



□ Pg.20



**Trapp A Model UDP
Names SISE Town Hall After Himself**

□ Pg.15

Celebrate Emancipation w/ GST-Free For Education

Get your School Supplies July 31, Emancipation Day, & August 2

The Emancipation Day weekend will be a full celebration of a liberation day perpetually etched in regional and Belizean history. The GST free weekend will add to that celebration as parents get ready for a new school year. Even charity donors are waiting for these weekends to stretch their donation to help 12.5 per cent more. If you are donating 1000 dollars, this GST-free weekend will allow you to help with approximately 110 dollars more; that is significant.

Businesses are asked to participate in curbing the cost of living and at special events like Fiestarama, Super Sale, Eboe Town, Belmopan Day, and similar all around the country. Those businesses that compete to see how high they can raise their prices are in peril. Consumers are not only looking for buying comfort; they are looking for the best prices to spend their hard earned dollar.

If you miss this weekend, then you can still get those school supplies during planBelize 2.0's mid-August Back to School GST-free days. The Government of Belize IS successfully pinching at the cost of living.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN NOW

Belmopan, July 29, 2025 — The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC), has issued a powerful joint statement condemning the recent rise in sexual violence against children in Belize. The statement is a resounding call to action, demanding swift justice, stronger community vigilance, and systemic protection for the country's most vulnerable citizens.

With 108 reported cases of unlawful sexual intercourse between 2023 and 2024, and experts estimating that only half of such crimes are reported, the Ministry and NCFC emphasized the gravity of the issue. These crimes, they say, are more than just criminal acts—they are violations of human dignity, sources of lifelong trauma, and direct threats to Belize's social fabric.

"This is now a pandemic in Belize," said Minister Thea Garcia Ramirez, expressing frustration over the frequency of cases involving minors. *"It should not matter whether the person was a government official or what their social status is—all allegations must be investigated. Once the investigation is complete, let the chips fall where they must."*

The Ministry highlighted a recent disturbing trend: several reports in the past two weeks of both sexual and physical abuse involving children. These cases underscore the urgency to strengthen child protection systems, improve inter-agency coordination, and ensure justice is served without fear or favor.

While acknowledging public outrage, Minister Garcia Ramirez also urged the media and public to be cautious when sharing details, noting that revealing the identity of an alleged perpetrator can inadvertently expose the identity of the child victim. "We are not shielding perpetrators," she clarified, "but safeguarding the dignity and safety of survivors."

The National Women's Commission (NWC) has also joined the call for urgent reform

and national mobilization. "Child sexual abuse is a silent epidemic that thrives in secrecy and shame," said Kristina Romero, Chairperson of the NWC. "We must break the silence, confront the systems that enable abuse, and create a world where every child is safe, heard, and protected."

A National Call to Action

The Ministry, NCFC, and NWC have outlined several immediate priorities:

- 1. Thorough Investigations** – Law enforcement must prioritize and expedite investigations into child sexual abuse.
- 2. Judicial Accountability** – Courts must ensure that sentencing reflects the severity of these crimes.
- 3. Education and Prevention** – Introduce age-appropriate, evidence-based education in schools to teach children about body safety and consent.
- 4. Support for Survivors** – Expand access to trauma-informed care, including mental health services and legal aid.
- 5. Community Engagement** – Encourage reporting, vigilance, and awareness within neighborhoods, schools, and religious institutions.

They also reiterated that no one is above the law, and perpetrators—whether high-ranking officials or ordinary citizens—must be held accountable. The government's zero-tolerance policy on child abuse is not just rhetoric—it must be enforced with transparency, consistency, and urgency.

How Can You Help?

Citizens are urged to be proactive. If you suspect a child is being abused, contact the Department of Human Services at 227-7451, 227-2057, or call the toll-free number 0-800-PROTECT (0-800-776-8328). All reports are confidential, and acting could save a life.

In closing, the Ministry and its partners reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to championing the rights, safety, and well-being of every Belizean child. Together, they believe Belize can build a safer, more just future—but only if the nation acts now.



SEPTEMBER 3-5
Sunset Caribe, San Pedro,
Ambergris Caye, Belize



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GUEST SPEAKER:
ADAM STEWART
Executive Chairman at Sandals Resort International



SEPTEMBER 3-5
Sunset Caribe, San Pedro,
Ambergris Caye, Belize



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GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. ERNESTO STEIN
Professor at Tecnológico de Monterrey and former
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) representative in Mexico

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EDITORIAL

Following planBelize Dynamism

Thirteen years of incompetent Barrow's United Democratic Party have left in Belize an ignoble memory of a time that we should never relive. Esquivel's retrenchment was dwarfed by the 2008-2020 scorching levels of corruption in the likes of land 'quitar' and grab, a rigged election in 2012, multiple economic recessions, vanishing PetroCaribe funds, largest US overseas real estate investment scam, exclusive Boledo license give-away and a Prime Minister and Minister of Finance pronounced guilty in the Supreme Court of spending 1.4 billion dollars without approval from parliament. March 2020 exposed the Barrow economy and gave the UDP an excuse to begin its pre-election firesale, including multiple last-minute land transfers and purchases. In contrast, the People's United Party has been evaluated by the maximum authority, the electorate, with stellar results in General, Municipal and Village elections. The people of Belize do not even countenance an Opposition party as planBelize arrives at the doorsteps and pockets of everyone. The immense change from a corrupt party's tyrannical rule to a vision-driven, people-centred, transparent, and accountable administration has in itself been historic not only locally, but even regionally and globally.

PlanBelize was born out of a necessity to save Belize. Its precise details were formed over years of discussion and listening to the people who knew that the UDP had 'Got to go'. So as the people ushered in John Briceño and team, Belize was treated with a necessary economic defibrillation shock as cattle exports began on day one, calls to airlines & cruise ships began, re-opening of borders was on the table, and the changes began. Fast forward to 2025, the changes are being seen and felt, and the PUP's signature 2020 election motto of 'Everybody fih win' is right on track. Bit by bit, project by project, and as Bills become Acts, the citizenry has engaged in change within a participatory democracy par excellence. Let's engage briefly in a few.

The Movable Property Security Rights Act, 2024, has enabled Micro businesses to use their movable assets as collateral for previously elusive loans. This action has fortified the employment market as MSMEs' employment prowess rivals that of the very government. Now, with the 2024 legislation, this established a Secured Transactions and Collateral Registry (STCR). The STCR allows for the registration of security interests in movable property, providing legal certainty and transparency for both borrowers and lenders. Additionally, the Government of Belize (GoB) has a policy that aims to allocate a minimum of 20% of government purchases to MSMEs. The MSME Support Program provides MSMEs with grants and other forms of assistance to help them adjust to previously insurmountable economic challenges. The road to this has been arduous and now fruitful, as the word 'Expo' is used every weekend.

A notable intangible change is that Belize now has a government that supports the workers of Belize. Bullets, teargassing and batons have given way to handshakes and mature discussion. Cases in point include the stevedores getting a financial package in compensation for losses, the Joint Unions getting their 8.5 per cent raise and more; the University of Belize gets a subvention increase; then, siding with the cane farmers in the 2021 five-day standoff versus ASR/BSI-Belcogen and agreeing to pay the \$564,130 for the cañeros. GoB, standing for the workers in these examples, is unprecedented. Also, new is the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) bill, which was revised and modernised to provide for improved standards for occupational safety and health of workers and other persons at work. The OSH will provide for the duties and obligations of employers, workers, self-employed persons, manufacturers, suppliers, installers, inspectors, and other persons at work. Let's cap this with the increase of the income tax threshold to \$29,000 and a coming minimum wage increase to \$6. It's an irrefutable change; the PUP is wholly for social justice and the workers of Belize.

Today, the GoB has tabled the 13th Amendment to the constitution. The bill is a direct affront to crime as it allows the declaration of "special areas" in response to serious threats to public safety; clarifies constitutional provisions related to states of public emergency and establishes a specialised Gun and Gang Court with hybrid judicial powers. The consultations highlight the urgency for these changes, particularly in light of modern criminal threats and concerns for citizen security. Such was the train of thought when the Senior Court was enacted, which comprises the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice established in the Tenth Amendment in 2022. The Chief Justice is now the head of the Senior Courts and the head of the Judiciary. It is responsible for the direction, control and administration. Of course, the planBelize tinge means the increase in efficiency and efficacy in the dispensation of justice. Fighting crime involves all sectors from the Economic, to the Educational, to the Human Development, to the Security Forces and an independent Judiciary. Crime numbers are down, and it is not coincidental that unemployment is also down.

The changes implemented by the charismatic leader Briceño's administration required buy-in from the Belizean people. The people are working with the PUP government. Relentless, PM Briceño's vision is to rid Belize of poverty. That guides his every move at its core. The government launched a medium-term first strategy in early 2023, which has since morphed to planBelize 2.0, focusing on poverty reduction, economic transformation, trade deficit reduction, citizen security, environmental protection, and good governance. As we move to the second half of 2025, the people are experiencing more of planBelize 2.0 in a Back to School Free GST, in homes given out almost every day, in hospitals being built, in Solar Panels being installed, in Boledo working for the people, in salaries being raised, in more Free Education, and much more. The people are asked to participate in the changes by educating and informing themselves and staying on the right track to build a Belize for our children.



EDITORIAL

en Español

Siguiendo el Dinamismo del PlanBelice

Los trece años de incompetencia del Partido Unido Democrático de Barrow han dejado en Belice un recuerdo ignominioso de una época que nunca deberíamos volver a vivir. La austeridad de Esquivel quedó eclipsada por los niveles abrasadores de corrupción entre 2008 y 2020, con casos como la apropiación y el acaparamiento de tierras, unas elecciones amañadas en 2012, múltiples recesiones económicas, la desaparición de los fondos de PetroCaribe, la mayor estafa de inversión inmobiliaria estadounidense en el extranjero, la concesión exclusiva de licencias de Boledo y la condena por parte del Tribunal Supremo del primer ministro y el ministro de Finanzas por gastar 1400 millones de dólares sin la aprobación del Parlamento. Marzo de 2020 puso al descubierto la economía de Barrow y dio al UDP una excusa para comenzar sus ventas urgentes pre-electorales, que incluyeron múltiples transferencias y compras de tierras de última hora. Por el contrario, el Partido Unido del Pueblo ha sido evaluado por la máxima autoridad, el electorado, con resultados excelentes en las elecciones generales, municipales y locales. El pueblo de Belice ni siquiera tolera a un partido de la oposición, ya que planBelice llega a las puertas y a los bolsillos de todos. El inmenso cambio de un gobierno tiránico de un partido corrupto a una administración transparente, responsable, centrada en las personas y con una visión de futuro ha sido en sí mismo histórico, no solo a nivel local, sino también regional y mundial.

PlanBelice nació de la necesidad de salvar Belice. Los detalles precisos se fueron configurando a lo largo de años de debate y de escuchar a las personas que sabían que el UDP «tenía que irse». Así, cuando el pueblo dio la bienvenida a John Briceño y su equipo, Belice recibió la necesaria descarga económica, ya que las exportaciones de ganado comenzaron desde el primer día, se iniciaron las llamadas a las aerolíneas y los cruceros, se planteó la reapertura de las fronteras y comenzaron los cambios. Avanzando rápidamente hasta 2025, los cambios se ven y se sienten, y el lema electoral del PUP para 2020, «Everybodyfihwin» (Todos ganamos), va por buen camino. Poco a poco, proyecto a proyecto, y a medida que los proyectos de ley se convierten en leyes, la ciudadanía se ha comprometido con el cambio dentro de una democracia participativa por excelencia. Veamos brevemente algunos ejemplos.

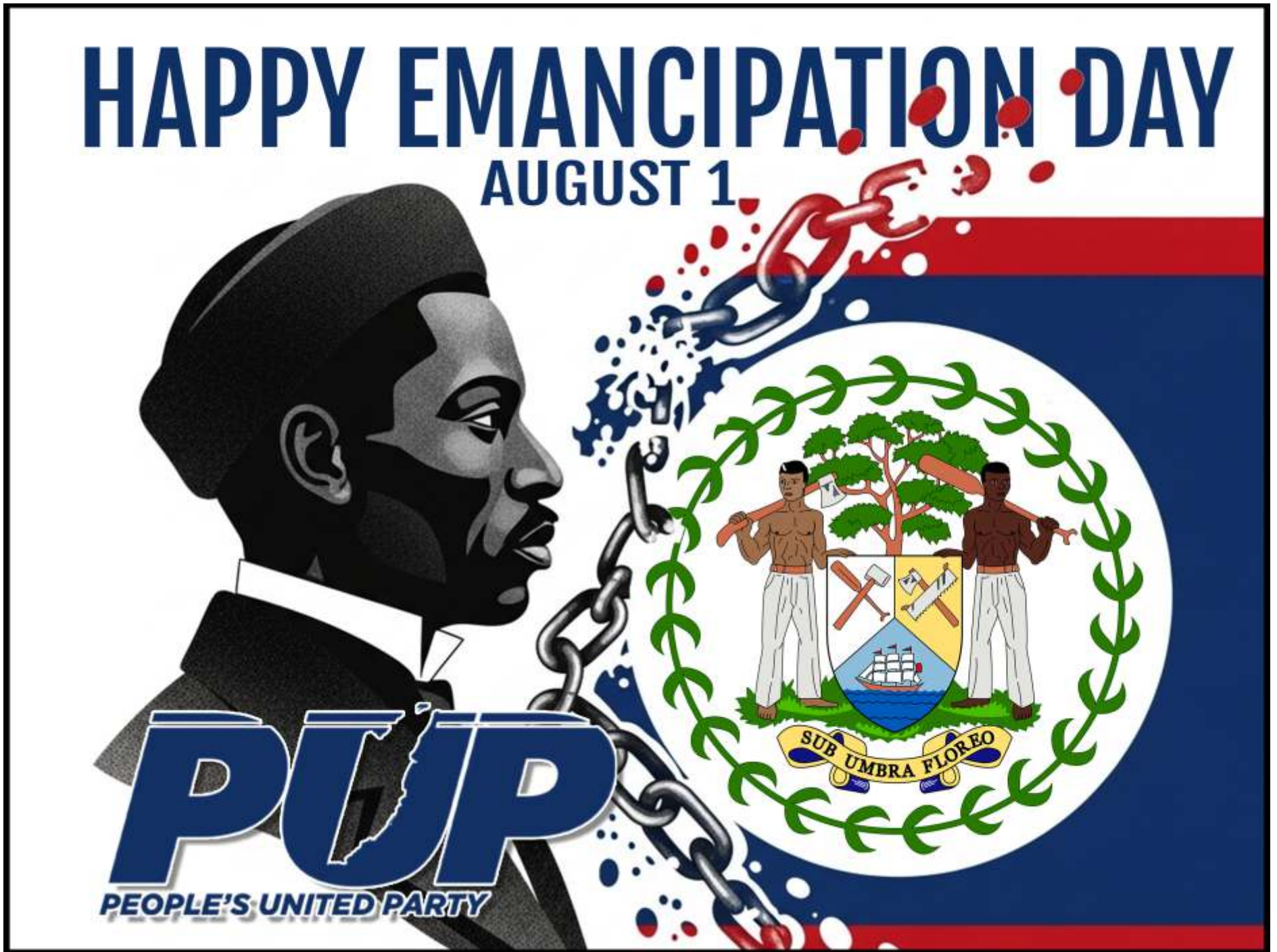
La Ley de Derechos de Garantía sobre Bienes Muebles de 2024 ha permitido a las microempresas utilizar sus activos muebles como garantía para préstamos que antes eran difíciles de obtener. Esta medida ha fortalecido el mercado laboral, ya que la capacidad de empleo de las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas rivaliza con la del propio Gobierno. Ahora, con la legislación de 2024, se ha creado un Registro de Transacciones Garantizadas y Garantías (STCR). El STCR permite el registro de derechos de garantía sobre bienes muebles, lo que proporciona seguridad jurídica y transparencia tanto a los prestatarios como a los prestamistas. Además, el Gobierno de Belice (GoB) tiene una política que tiene como objetivo asignar un mínimo del 20 % de las compras gubernamentales a las MIPYMES. El Programa de Apoyo a las MIPYMES proporciona a estas últimas subvenciones y otras formas de asistencia para ayudarlas a adaptarse a retos económicos que antes eran insuperables. El camino hasta llegar a esto ha sido arduo, pero ahora está dando sus frutos, ya que la palabra «Expo» se utiliza todos los fines de semana.

Un cambio intangible y notable es que Belice cuenta ahora con

un Gobierno que apoya a los trabajadores del país. Las balas, los gases lacrimógenos y las porras han dado paso a los apretones de manos y a los debates maduros. Algunos ejemplos son el paquete financiero que recibieron los estibadores como compensación por las pérdidas, el aumento salarial del 8,5 % que obtuvieron los sindicatos conjuntos y mucho más; el aumento de la subvención que recibió la Universidad de Belice; y el apoyo a los cañeros en el enfrentamiento de cinco días de 2021 contra ASR/BSI-Belcogen y el acuerdo de pagar los 564,130 dólares a los cañeros. El Gobierno de Belice, que defiende a los trabajadores en estos ejemplos, no tiene precedentes. También es nueva la ley de seguridad y salud en el trabajo (OSH) que se ha revisado y modernizado para mejorar las normas de seguridad y salud en el trabajo de los trabajadores y otras personas en el ámbito laboral. La OSH establecerá los deberes y obligaciones de los empleadores, los trabajadores, los autónomos, los fabricantes, los proveedores, los instaladores, los inspectores y otras personas en el ámbito laboral. Rematemos esto con el aumento del umbral del impuesto sobre la renta a 29,000 dólares y el próximo aumento del salario mínimo a 6 dólares. Es un cambio irrefutable; el PUP está totalmente a favor de la justicia social y de los trabajadores de Belice.

Hoy, el Gobierno de Belice ha presentado la 13.^a enmienda a la Constitución. El proyecto de ley supone un ataque directo a la delincuencia, ya que permite la declaración de «zonas especiales» en respuesta a amenazas graves para la seguridad pública; aclara las disposiciones constitucionales relacionadas con los estados de emergencia pública y establece un tribunal especializado en armas y bandas con poderes judiciales híbridos. Las consultas ponen de relieve la urgencia de estos cambios, especialmente a la luz de las amenazas criminales modernas y las preocupaciones por la seguridad de los ciudadanos. Tal fue la línea de pensamiento cuando se promulgó la Ley de Tribunales Superiores que comprende el Tribunal de Apelación y el Tribunal Superior de Justicia, establecidos en la Décima Enmienda de 2022. El presidente del Tribunal Supremo es ahora el jefe de los Tribunales Superiores y el jefe del Poder Judicial. Es responsable de la dirección, el control y la administración. Por supuesto, el matiz del planBelice significa el aumento de la eficiencia y la eficacia en la administración de justicia. La lucha contra la delincuencia involucra a todos los sectores, desde el económico, pasando por el educativo, el desarrollo humano, las fuerzas de seguridad y un poder judicial independiente. Las cifras de delincuencia han bajado, y no es casualidad que el desempleo también haya bajado.

Los cambios implementados por la carismática administración del líder Briceño requirieron la aceptación del pueblo beliceño. El pueblo está colaborando con el gobierno del PUP. La visión implacable del primer ministro Briceño es erradicar la pobreza en Belice. Eso es lo que guía cada uno de sus movimientos. El gobierno lanzó una primera estrategia a medio plazo a principios de 2023 que desde entonces se ha transformado en el planBelice 2.0, centrado en la reducción de la pobreza, la transformación económica, la reducción del déficit comercial, la seguridad ciudadana, la protección del medioambiente y la buena gobernanza. A medida que avanzamos hacia la segunda mitad de 2025, la población está experimentando más del planBelice 2.0 en un impuesto sobre bienes y servicios (GST) gratuito para la vuelta al colegio, en nuevos hogares que se entregan casi a diario, en hospitales que se están construyendo, en paneles solares que se están instalando, en Boledo trabajando para la población, en salarios que se están aumentando, en más educación gratuita y mucho más. Se pide a la población que participe en los cambios formándose y manteniéndose en el buen camino para construir un Belice para nuestros hijos.



Belize 5th Celebration of Emancipation Day

EBOE TOWN in Belize City

Historically, Belize have a vibrant tapestry of ethnicities and culture. One of the cultures that will be on display on the August 1st holiday this Friday is that of the Igbo (Eboe) tribe. August 1st is celebrated as Emancipation Day across the wider Caribbean marking the day in 1834 when slavery was abolished in the English-speaking Caribbean. Belize officially recognized Emancipation Day in 2021, joining the other Caribbean countries in marking the freedom of enslaved Africans who became the currency of the colonial masters. Belize became the home to an enslaved population, including the Igbo and the Ashanti tribes.

The African population settled in an area at the mouth of the Belize River which became known as Eboe Town, quite possibly the creole pronunciation and a contributor to the local creole culture. Unfortunately, Eboe Town was destroyed by fire on November 9, 1819. Apart from the Eboe strong influence on the local language in Belize, the traditions and practices in the settlement, there was

an exquisite potpourri of culinary delicacies that became truly Belizean.

Eboe Town is the venue for the fifth celebration of Emancipation Day. In a collaborative effort of the Belize City Council (BCC) and the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) the Isiah Morter Square will be transformed into a kaleidoscope of color and music. The MSMEs will be at full strength with booths displaying locally made products and the rich cuisine Belize has to offer.

The National Celebrations Commission (NCC) is hosting the Official Ceremony for Emancipation Day 2025, at the “Old Government House” on Dame Minita Gordon Drive in Belize City, Belize. The ceremony begins at 9:00 am. Belmopan also has their own celebration at the Guanacaste Park. Thereafter the festivities will be transformed into a day of unity and culture coming together. Belize@44: Stronger Together, Rising Forever.
By Hilly Bennett

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

In collaboration with the Belize City Council & The National Institute of Culture and History

EBOE TOWN Festival

FOODS

BBQ CHICKEN	FISH CAKES	VEGETARIAN SUSHI
ITALIAN SAUSAGE	FUFU	BOIL UP
WINGS	GARLIC KNOTS	HUJUT
MEXICAN TACOS	JAMAICAN BUNS	RICE AND BEANS
FRIED CHICKEN	DINNER ROLLS	NACHOS
STUFF JALAPENOS	CINNAMON ROLL	CHIPS & DIPS
GARNACHES	NUGGETS	CEVICHE
CHICKEN FINGERS	CHEESY FRIES	METEMGEE
TAMALES	DUMPLINS	DEER MEAT
SALPICON	CHOW MEIN	GIBNUT
STEW CASHW	SOOPA	STEW BEANS
		STEW CHICKEN

FRIDAY
AUGUST 1ST
2025

ISIAH MORTER SQUARE
(ALBERT STREET WEST)

11:00 AM - 9:00 PM



Our National Telecom



Press Release
29 July 2025

Digi Awards 41 High School Scholarships to Outstanding Belizean Students



Belize City, Belize: On Friday, July 25th, Digi proudly hosted its annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, recognizing 41 exceptional students from across the country with full high school scholarships that cover both tuition and books.

These students were selected through a competitive process based on academic excellence and meeting the program's financial need criteria. Each recipient will now attend the high school of their choice, gaining access to new opportunities for personal and academic growth.

The 2025 application process ran from April 28th to July 4th, under the theme: "Build the Belize You Imagine – Your Future Starts Now," reflecting Digi's commitment to digital empowerment and national transformation.

As Digi continues its transition into a Technology Company (TechCo), the atmosphere of the ceremony reflected this exciting evolution, a modern, dynamic, and digitally immersive event.

Education remains one of Digi's core pillars of national development, with the company investing over \$100,000 annually in scholarships and academic initiatives. Since the program's inception in 1991, the Digi Scholarship Program has supported the journeys of more than 800 Belizean students, with investment and reach growing year after year. During the ceremony, CEO Ivan Tesucum announced that the number of scholarships will increase to 50 in 2026, reinforcing Digi's long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Government of Belize in shaping a brighter future for the nation's youth.

The event brought together notable guests, including Hon. Ramon Cervantes, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Dr. Leroy Almendarez, CEO in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics; Mr. Jose Urbina, CEO in the Ministry of E-Governance; along with members of Digi's Board of Directors, Senior Leadership Team, and the proud parents, guardians, and mentors of the 2025 Digi Scholars.



Digi remains steadfast in its mission to power Belize's development—investing in young minds, enabling digital futures, and building the Belize we all imagine.

For more information, contact prdept@livedigi.com

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Ladyville/ Lord's Bank, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. **Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.**

1. Parcel No. 5308 Ladyville/ Lord's Bank, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/Lord's Bank	16	5308

The Freehold property of Ms. Tina Gill.

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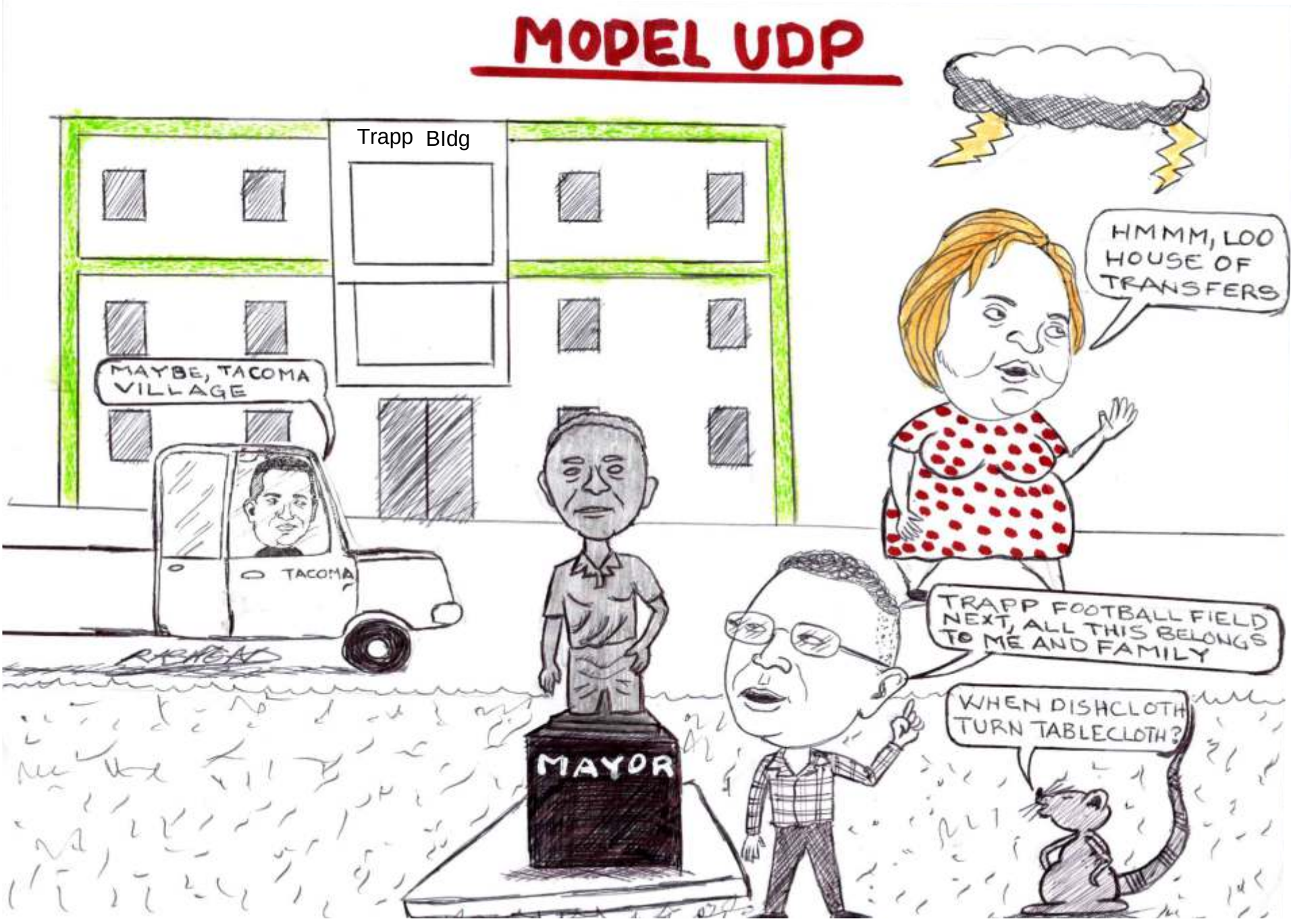
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presents



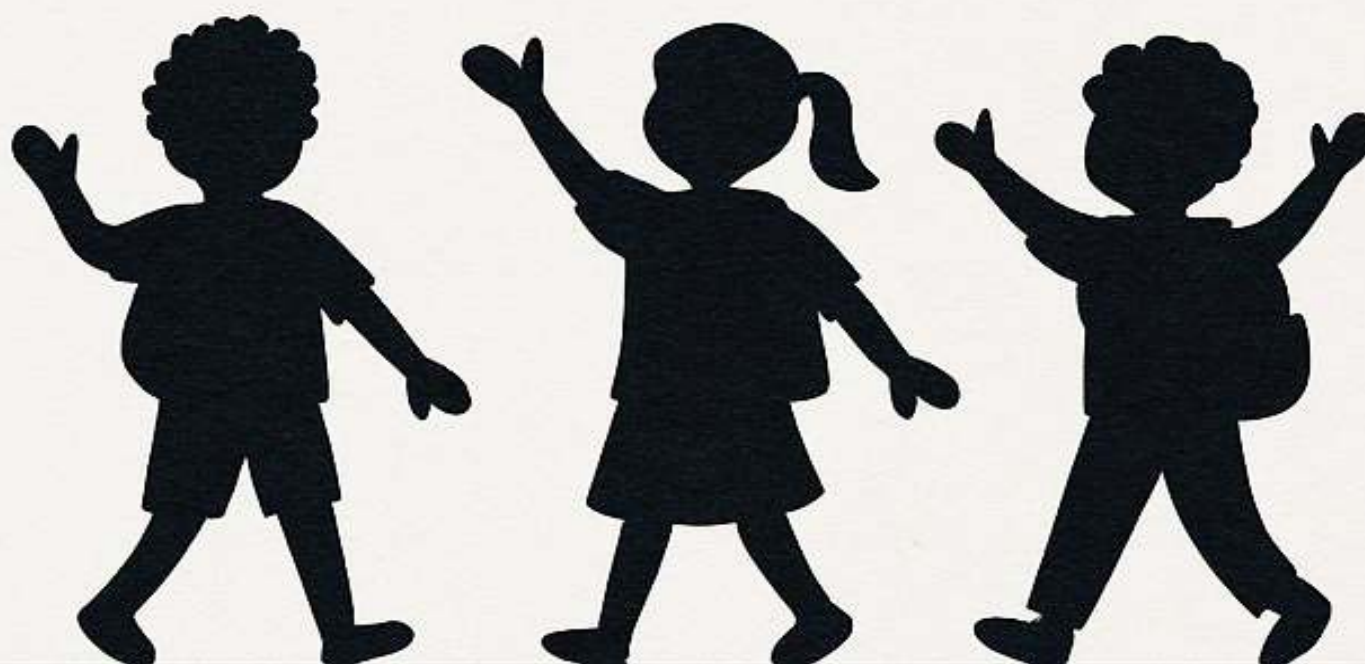
BACK 2 SCHOOL

GST-FREE Weekends

July 31 & August 2

August 15-17

This one's for the Children



FIGHTING FUSARIUM

BELIZE HOSTS NATIONAL FORUM ON FUSARIUM TR4

July 22, 2025 - Belize is hosted the National Forum on Fusarium TR4 at Dream Valley Resort's Conference Room in Teakettle Village. The forum brings together national and international experts, farmers, and agricultural stakeholders to strengthen Belize's readiness to prevent and manage the banana disease Fusariumoxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (TR4), which poses a serious threat to global banana production.

The event is organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE) with funding support from the Republic of China (Taiwan) through Taiwan ICDF, in collaboration with the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). It forms part of the wider regional initiative, Proyecto FUSARIUM R4T, aimed at building the region's capacity to address this agricultural challenge.

Delivering the keynote address was the Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, who emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, science-based solutions, and national



preparedness. He also highlighted the significant progress Belize has made under the project, thanks to the support of partners. Minister Mai also emphasized that protecting Belize from TR4 is not just about safeguarding banana farms, it's about protecting the jobs, incomes, and food security of many Belizean families.

The forum includes technical presentations covering:

Taiwan's successful strategies for controlling TR4,

Use of rapid diagnostic tools like PCR and LAMP,

Satellite imagery and canine-assisted disease detection, and

Belize's own TR4 preparedness plan.

One of the major accomplishments under the project is the field evaluation of three banana varieties, Formosana, Williams, and Gran Enano at sites in Central Farm and the banana belt in Stann Creek. The Formosana variety showed comparable results to traditional varieties, with two productive harvests yielding 212 and 245 bunches. These findings suggest it may be suitable for commercial production in Belize.

The Ministry extended sincere thanks to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its steadfast partnership, and to all the local and regional organizations who continue to support Belize's efforts. This

forum highlights the value of working together, farmers, scientists, and governments to ensure the banana industry remains strong and sustainable for future generations.(release)

Prime Minister Visits Cane Fields Observing Treatment to Fusarium Disease

On July 18 Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño visited cane fields in Orange Walk District to observe the treatment being applied to combat Fusarium, a disease affecting sugar cane. He was joined by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, and Mr. Marcos Osorio, Chairman of the Sugar Industry Control Board (SICB).

The team also toured nearby cane fields showing signs of the disease to better understand the extent of the problem.

To help farmers act quickly, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture are working on a plan to make financing available through the Development Finance Corporation at affordable rates. This support will help farmers start treatment immediately, giving the 2025–2026 sugar cane crop a better chance of success.

The Government of Belize remains fully committed to supporting cane farmers, recognizing that their success is in the best interest of the country's economy and food security. (Post)

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 11/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 13 August2025 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 12 November 2025.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 8 August 2025.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday 13 August2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

23 July 2025



TENDER INVITATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES TO BELIZE WATER SERVICES

Belize Water Services Ltd (BWS) invites firms to tender for the supply of external audit services for the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2027.

The detailed requirements can be requested electronically at tenders@bwsl.com.bz

The closing date for tender submissions is August 4, 2025, at 4:00pm.

BWS reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders. Please note late tenders will not be accepted.

Belize Water Services Ltd
P.O. Box 150,
Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize
Telephone: 222-4757 extension 1306
Email: tenders@bwsl.com.bz
Website: www.bwsl.com.bz

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

**FROM CRABOO VENDOR
AS A YOUTH
TO SUCCESSFUL
BUSINESS PERSON
TO POLITICIAN
Hon. Gilroy Usher**



“On Central America Blvd near Vernon St in Belize City, I embraced the opportunity to relive (REENACT) my past as a craboo vendor in my early twenties Cor. Albert St. and Orange St. in the Old Capital.

As a carboo vendor during the months of July and August, yearly for at least five years as a youth, I learned many things that made it less challenging for me to be a successful business person and politician later in my life.

As a youth, my main sales pitch in those years long gone was "Carboo \$1.00 for a bag! 2 bags for \$1.75!"

Closing Remarks at Event on Faber's Rd, Belize City



Successful Maritime Summer Camp At YMCA
“Urged Youths To Always Aim High” - Hon Gilroy Usher, Port Loyal Rep



In addressing close to 40 campers at the closing ceremony of the Maritime Summer Camp at the YMCA on Faber's Rd in Belize City on Friday Hon Gilroy Usher Minister of State for Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics/ Area Representative for Port Loyola urged the youths to put the many things they have learned during the camp into practice for the benefit of themselves and their community.

Minister Gilroy Usher also encouraged the campers always aim high in whatever careers they choose as they will be the future leaders of the country.

During the closing ceremony each camper received a certificate and a schoolbag with school supplies. The three most outstanding campers were also given a Coast Guard cap.

Many thanks to Dr. Carla Cuellar -Manager YMCA, Mr. Keeron Young, - Supervisor Belize Port Authority, Danna Ciego Sgt. BDF, Leeford Meighan Po 3 Belize Coast Guard, Miss Elizabeth Ranguy -training and research office Belize Port Authority, Miss Lisa Duran Public Relations officer Belize Port Authority, sponsors of the event including Hon Gilroy Usher, and all others who assisted in anyway in making the Maritime Summer camp a successful event.

IT'S ALMOST SUNDAY!

**Purchase Your Ticket From Any Of
Our Sub-Agents Countrywide And
Turn Your Dreams Into Big
Winnings!!!**



7

5

4





Atlantic Times - Vol. 152. NO 352

August-2025

HAPPY EMANCIPATION DAY

A tribute to our strength, unity, and legacy.



All branches and drive thrus will close on Saturday, August 2, 2025 and reopen on Monday, August 4, 2025.

For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank Visa/Mastercard Debit or Credit Cards.

For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or AtlaXpress merchants located countrywide.

www.atlabank.comFOLLOW US ON  

Tariff-Free Shrimp from Belize to Taiwan



The Embassy of Taiwan on Belize is excited to announce via its FB page that, starting from July 30, 2025, Taiwan officially opens its market to white shrimp from Belize tariff-free! This significant development further strengthens our bilateral trade and economic partnership.

Together, we promote shared prosperity for our two nations and peoples!

2025-07-30 - Belize white shrimp and other aquatic products are now fully open to Taiwan, deepening economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Source: Latin America and the Caribbean Division - Release No. 266

The Taiwanese government has announced that, effective July 30, 2025, the import of frozen Belizean white shrimp and other aquatic products into Taiwan will be fully permitted. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes this new milestone in Taiwan-Belize economic and trade cooperation and will continue to assist allies in importing high-quality agricultural and fishery products to Taiwanese consumers.

Since the signing of the Taiwan-Belgium Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) in January 2022, the economic and trade relations between the two countries have continued to grow. Given that Taiwan's consumer market demands approximately 30,000 metric tons of white shrimp annually, domestic production is insufficient and the country has to rely on foreign imports. In recent years, the Taiwanese government has actively promoted the opening of Belizean aquatic products to Taiwan. After continuous efforts by both sides, Belizean aquatic products have passed the food import system inspection of Taiwan, and from now on (30) onwards, Belizean frozen white shrimp and other products will be allowed to be imported into Taiwan with zero tariffs, which specifically demonstrates the win-win results of economic and trade diplomacy of mutual benefit and prosperity between Taiwan and its allies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the Administration of International Trade of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Agency for Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, are jointly promoting the "Prosperity Project" under the "Comprehensive Diplomacy" policy. Through the Central American Economic and Trade Office (CATO), they organized a "Belize Smart Fisheries Business Opportunity Study Tour" to Belize in August of this year to purchase white shrimp and explore investment opportunities in smart fish farming. This will further enhance economic and trade exchanges with friendly countries and develop investment opportunities, ensuring that the fruits of mutual benefit are shared by the people of both countries. (E)

Belize is always seeking to expand its trade horizons and this is a major win for the GDP of Belize. Shrimp farmers and investors will be elated in placing more into this industry. This will mean more jobs and growth for the Belizean economy.



Together, We Must Protect Our Children

Dear Editor,

As a young Belizean, I am deeply disturbed by the recent surge of reports involving the sexual abuse of children across our nation. These are not just headlines — they are heartbreaking stories of innocent lives forever scarred by acts of unspeakable violence.

I commend the Ministry of Human Development and the National Commission for Families and Children for their strong public stance. Their call to action is timely, but words alone are not enough. We need our communities, families, and leaders to rise with urgency and unity.

This crisis cannot be solved by the government alone. It requires all of us — parents, teachers, pastors, neighbours — to be vigilant, speak up, and support survivors. Silence protects predators, not children.

We must educate, empower, and create safe spaces for our youth. No child should suffer because adults failed to act.

There is still hope. By working together with empathy and courage, we can build a Belize where every child is safe, valued, and free to thrive.

Sincerely,
A Belizean Youth

Cellphone Repair Participant Opens Doors to Triple 8's Repairs



The Prime Minister's Ministry of Investment has been pushing the effort to empower women and girls to develop skills at repairing cell phones at a beginner level and next at a higher advanced level. With everyone having a cellphone, the need to repair these is great as not everyone can just dig into one's pocket to purchase a device of choice. These are like shoes-- everyone needs one but sometimes you rather go to the cobbler than buy

a cheap shoe. Yes, it is often smarter to fix a phone than buy another. A reality on Androids and the iPhones is that year to year the difference is often minor. Size, a few megapixels, AI or not, battery lasting, how bright the screen is and so on might be differences.

Ahead is a posted testimonial that took the Ministry, Taiwan and the National Women's Commission to their word and she has opened shop.

* Exciting News! *

"I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who played a part in giving me the opportunity to become certified in cell phone and tablet repair. Because of your support and encouragement, I am now able to turn my passion into a profession by opening my very own repair shop!

Introducing ***Triple 8's Repairs!** *Now officially open and ready to serve you with top-quality repairs for your devices. Whether it's a cracked screen, battery replacement, software issues, or any other repair needs, we've got you covered!

Location: Altamira, Corozal

Contact Us: Call or WhatsApp: *651-0418* or *671-9016*

Your trust means everything to me, and I can't wait to provide you with reliable and affordable repair

services. Spread the word and help me grow this dream!

#Triple8sRepairs
#CellPhoneRepair #TabletRepair
#CertifiedTech #AltamiraCorozal
#SmallBusiness #ThankYou"

Through the ongoing women's empowerment efforts of GOB and its partners, fourteen women from the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts have expanded their technical expertise in the professional craft of smartphone repairs. These women, who entered the tech-repair business after completing phase one of the "Cell Phone Repair Training for Women in Belize," are now graduates of phase two of the training. They were provided with the tools and knowledge to perform micro-soldering, short-circuit diagnostics, and chip-level repairs, among other more advanced skills. These new entrepreneurs will now be able to enhance their market competitiveness as could be seen in the testimony.

Diversification in the Toledo District Pitahaya and Soursop Tree Management Training

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE), in collaboration with the Cooperatives Department and the Department of Youth Services in Toledo, successfully hosted a two-day training on Pitahaya and Soursop tree management from July 23rd to 24th, 2025, in the Toledo District.

This training forms part of MAFSE's ongoing efforts to promote diversification and build technical capacity in the management of non-traditional fruit crops such as Pitahaya and Soursop, both of which are seeing increased demand across the country.

The training was officially opened with remarks by Mr. Enrique Rivas, National Fruit Tree Program Coordinator, based at Central Farm. Over the course of the two days, a total of 108 farmers participated in both theoretical sessions and practical, hands-on training. Topics covered included agroecological management, pruning, pollination, pest and disease control, and other key practices essential for improved productivity and fruit quality.

Training sessions were led by Mr. Israel Pech and Ms. Lilian Suntecun, technicians from the Research Unit at Central Farm, who delivered both the classroom and field demonstrations.

Participants are now expected to apply the knowledge and techniques gained to enhance their production and improve the overall quality of their Pitahaya and Soursop crops, contributing to food security, economic resilience, and agricultural development in Belize.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. Denzil Castillo, District Agriculture Coordinator at the Toledo Agriculture Station, who worked tirelessly alongside his team to ensure the successful coordination and logistics of this important event.(release)



PlanBelize 2.0

Prime Minister John Briceño, OW Central



Fighting Fusarium



Preparing for Fiestarama



Baker's Street facelift

Min. Kareem Musa, Home Affairs w/ Andre Perez



Hands-on Visit to Caye Caulker and San Pedro stations and communities



Music Recorder Sessions

Min. Jose Mai, Ministry of Agriculture
Extraordinary Agric Summer Camp



Hon. Kevin Bernard, OW East



Supporting sports, Chan Pine Ridge football marathon

Hon. Marconi Leal, Jr., Belize Rural North



200 lots empowering his constituents

Investment & Min. Garcia Ramirez



Women's Commission, Taiwan's Technical Mission

Min. Louis Zabaneh, Transport



At Dangriga Bus Terminal, part of major overhaul of bus transport

Hon. Osmond Martinez, Toledo East



BYM Toledo massive cleanup campaign

Belize City Council

Hon. Julius Espat, MIDH



Road work in Hopkins



Erecting more signage

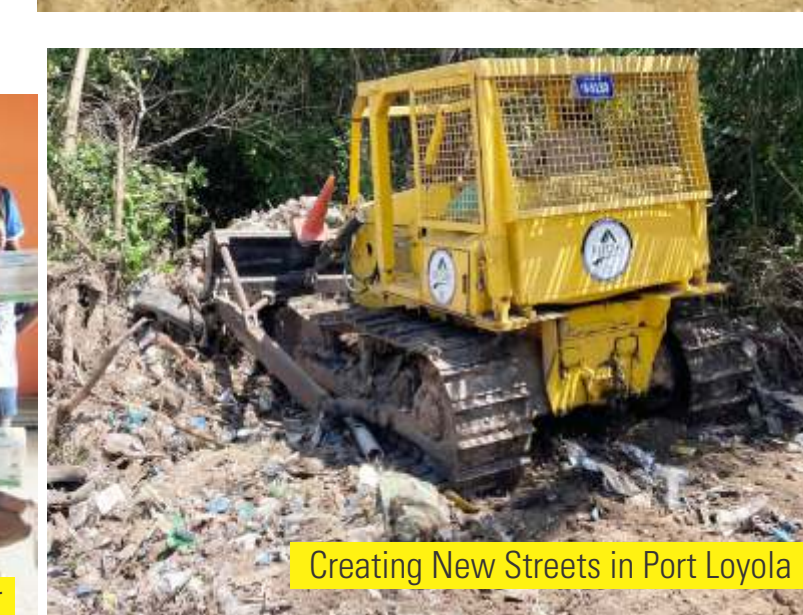
Hon. Francis Fonseca, Freetown



Summer Camp close, shining example of camps all over



Supporting Sports at the Roger's Stadium



Creating New Streets in Port Loyola

Belize Hosts Workshop on Firearms Trafficking and Integrated Control Systems



The Firearms and Ammunition Control Board with the support of regional and international institutions partners of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and CARICOM IMPACS completed a National Workshop on Firearms Trafficking and Integrated Control Systems aimed at strengthening the fight against illicit firearms trafficking and improving coordination between law enforcement agencies across the Caribbean.

The sessions brought together representatives of the various units of the Police Department, Belize Defence Force, Customs and Excise Department and the National Forensic Science Services.

Participants examined how they could better collaborate, particularly when a firearm is linked to multiple crimes in investigative systems. The program opened on July 22 with a workshop on Integrated Firearms Centres at the Lord Ashcroft Centre in Belize City. The event was chaired by Roberto Rodríguez Codesal of UNODC. UN Regional Representative Sylvie Bertrand delivered remarks via remote video, while Taj Cassells, analyst for CARICOM IMPACS, served as an integral speaker throughout the workshop. Sharole Carr, Chief Executive Officer in

the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and Chair of the Firearms and Ammunition Control Board, delivered the keynote address.

During the sessions, participants gained clarity on the tracing and marking of firearms – a crucial tool for dismantling criminal networks. They examined case scenarios involving data collection and logging, identification of markings and serial numbers, and discussed the concealment of weapons in international shipments, vehicles, and shipping containers.

According to CEO Sharole Carr, who also participated in the workshop, the training emphasized the need for greater interaction between agencies. “The results included a practical understanding of the complete tracking cycle, familiarization

with real forms and platforms, and improved coordination between police, prosecutors, and international actors,” she said. Carr added that the workshops raised awareness of the importance of traceability in combating illicit trafficking.

From July 23 to 25, UNODC led a three-day firearms training course featuring presentations, discussions, and practical workshops. The agenda included illicit trafficking trends, firearms identification and classification, forensic ballistics, and detection strategies at borders. Rodríguez Codesal, Cassells, and UNODC specialists, along with Belizean authorities, conducted the sessions.

The course also addressed emerging challenges such as 3D-printed firearms, online trafficking, and the role of

artificial intelligence in arms smuggling. Practical exercises, including firearms tracing simulations and visual recognition drills, further strengthened participants' technical expertise. (release)

Minister Musa Visits the Islands

Belize's Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Kareem Musa, visited police officers on Caye Caulker and San Pedro as part of ongoing efforts to improve welfare and working conditions within the police department.

Musa, accompanied by Chief Executive Officer Sharole Carr and senior police command met with officers to discuss their concerns and outline government initiatives aimed at strengthening support for law enforcement personnel.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

Public Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Banknotes to Enter Circulation on 4 August 2025

Belize City, 8 July 2025: The Central Bank of Belize is pleased to announce that the new 2025 banknote series will officially enter circulation on **4 August 2025**.

The new series includes enhanced security features, updated themes, and new portraits, reflecting the nation's heritage and safeguarding the integrity of Belize's currency. While the banknotes will have a new look, the exchange rate remains unchanged at BZ\$2 to US\$1.

Since the design reveal in January, the Central Bank has been actively engaging schools, businesses, financial institutions, and the public through education and outreach activities. “We have worked diligently to ensure a smooth and secure rollout. We want every citizen to feel confident using the new banknotes,” said Governor Kareem Michael.

The new banknotes will be available at all domestic banks on the date of circulation. However, the new banknotes will not be available at all ATMs, as ATMs continue to be configured. All ATMs are expected to begin dispensing the new banknotes shortly after the circulation date.

Existing banknotes will remain legal tender. However, the Central Bank strongly encourages the public to deposit them at their financial institutions, so that they can be phased out of circulation.

We thank the public for their continued cooperation and support as we transition to this new series. To learn more about the new banknotes, visit www.centralbank.org.bz.

New Look, Same Value!

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194



BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY

Mile 4, George Price Highway
P.O. Box 633, Belize City, Belize
Tel. (501) 222-5662 / 5663 / 5667

Email: bzportauth@btl.net Website: www.portauthority.bz

BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY INVITATION TO TENDER

Date Issued: 25 July 2025

Tender Submission Deadline: 5 August 2025, 4:00 PM

Introduction

The Belize Port Authority (BPA) invites qualified boat builders and suppliers to submit sealed bids for the provision and delivery of two (2) enforcement vessels. The enforcement vessels must meet the minimum specifications outlined in the attached Terms of Reference (TOR). Interested suppliers are asked to review the TOR for full technical details and submission requirements.

Background and Scope of Work

The BPA is tasked with enforcing maritime laws and ensuring safety, security, and environmental protection in Belizean waters. To strengthen its enforcement capabilities, the BPA requires two new patrol vessels built to the specifications outlined herein. The required vessels must meet the technical requirements and specifications detailed in the attached TOR.

Eligibility & Qualification Requirements

Interested bidders must demonstrate:

- Proven experience in supplying and commissioning similar vessels.
- Capacity to deliver within the agreed timeframe.
- Warranty and after-sales service capabilities.
- Compliance with applicable Belizean and international standards.

Submission Requirements

- All bids must contain:
 - o Cover Letter
 - o Company profile & references.
 - o Technical proposal (compliance with TOR).
 - o Financial proposal (price breakdown).
 - o Delivery timeline
 - o Warranty & service terms
- Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked:
"Tender: BPA/2025(1) – Enforcement Vessels"
- Bids must be addressed and delivered to:
The Acting Ports Commissioner
Belize Port Authority
Mile 4, George Price Highway
P.O. Box 633, Belize City, Belize
- Deadline for submission: 5 August 2025 at 4:00 PM.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

Bids will be evaluated based on compliance with the TOR, price competitiveness, delivery schedule, warranty & after-sales service, and past performance.

Terms & Conditions

- BPA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and is not obligated to accept the lowest or any offer
- Prices must be quoted in Belize Dollars (BZD), inclusive of all applicable taxes, delivery, commissioning costs.
- Payment terms will be in accordance with BPA's standard contract terms.
- Any conflicts of interest must be declared.

Declaration

By submitting a bid, the bidder agrees to the terms and conditions of this invitation and certifies the accuracy of the information provided.

Maritime Service, Security & Efficiency
Report navigation light breakdowns, hazards, or marine incidents.
Emergency VHF Channel 16, Tel: 966
Manned 24 hours



MODEL UDP

Names SISE Town Hall After Himself



The San Ignacio - Santa Elena Municipal Town Hall building has been named by the self-proclaimed dictator Mayor himself. This is after all the usual autocratic MO of dictators; Saddam comes to mind. They have a need to compensate by naming buildings after themselves. Usually this is left for others to honour you after they publicly recognize your accomplishments.

After hiring and firing family and self-proclaiming to becoming a dictator, SISE Mayor Trapp continues imposing his will on the people. Trap has no people centered accomplishment. NONE.

All progress in the twin towns in the last five years has been because of the PUP Representation in town and the District. Even the Ministry of Tourism and others like Education and Agriculture have made inroads into the twin towns. While Trapp names the Town Hall building which should be name after the Twin Towns, the PUP does its work in improving the lives of the Cayo people.

Trapp dishonorably takes credit.

Time for Trapp and his disservice to go...

As comment on a FB news post said it all, "He has denigrated that building by equating it to him as his name does not represent the vast majority of that town."



NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the following company has been struck off the Register of Companies and dissolved with effect from the date indicated:

Name of Company	Date
GRIVETY CORPORATION	23 rd July, 2025
NIKOS RESOURCES CORP.	24 th July, 2024

Icaza Belize Trust Corporation Limited
Registered Agent

DFC Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future Partnership for a Resilient Future



BELMOPAN, July 29, 2025 — In a landmark move to bolster Belize's response to climate change and unlock new opportunities in the blue economy, the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that promises to redefine how environmental and economic resilience

are financed in the country.

This strategic **five-year agreement**, signed in Belmopan, signals a new era of cooperation between Belize's only national development bank and a pioneering private conservation trust fund. At the heart of this collaboration is a shared commitment to sustainable development, climate adaptation, and inclusive economic growth.

A United Front for Climate Action

With the reality of climate change, biodiversity loss, and marine degradation growing more urgent, this MOU provides a framework for long-term joint efforts to meet Belize's development and conservation goals. Both institutions will pool their resources and expertise to:

- Co-develop innovative climate adaptation and blue economy financing mechanisms.
- Promote public education and awareness around conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
- Enhance stakeholder engagement and capacity-building to improve access to funding; and
- Facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge and tools for greater impact.

Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, Executive Director of the Belize Fund, welcomed the partnership, stating, "This agreement strengthens the reach and impact of the Belize Fund. Working alongside DFC allows us to amplify national efforts to secure a more resilient future for both our people and our marine and coastal ecosystems."

Mr. Henry N. Anderson, CEO of DFC, echoed the sentiment. "We are proud to

work with the Belize Fund in bridging financing gaps for sustainable development. This partnership aligns directly with our mission to foster equitable growth and support the nation's climate and economic resilience."

Supporting Belize's Blue Economy Vision

Belize's blue economy—which encompasses the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and ecosystem health—is a national priority. Through this MOU, both the DFC and the Belize Fund aim to ensure that Belizeans, particularly those in coastal and marine-based communities, can access the resources they need to adapt, innovate, and thrive.

The Belize Fund, created in 2022 as part of the country's innovative Blue Bonds initiative, manages conservation payments and reinvests them in marine protection and climate adaptation efforts. The DFC, meanwhile, continues to support MSMEs, renewable energy, education, tourism, and agriculture through long-term, tailored financing solutions.

By combining their strengths, these two institutions will support projects that preserve natural capital, boost economic opportunity, and build climate resilience—ensuring that the benefits of sustainable development reach all Belizeans.

National Impact with Global Relevance

The timing of this partnership is particularly significant. As global climate

finance mechanisms evolve and pressure mounts for more localized and inclusive action, Belize is taking an initiative, taking a role in leading by example. This MOU embodies that spirit of collaboration, innovation, and resilience.

It also reflects the country's continued commitment to fulfilling its obligations under international frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its Blue Bonds conservation milestones.

With this major institutional success under the Briceño Administration—following the Belize Investment Summit and the Blair Athol solar energy PPA—this agreement further underscores the government's strategic focus on climate resilience, economic diversification, and inclusive prosperity.

Looking Ahead

As Belize continues to chart its course toward a sustainable future, partnerships like this between the DFC and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future will be critical in ensuring that growth is not only achievable but also equitable and environmentally responsible.

In the words of both leaders, this MOU is more than just a document—it is a shared commitment to future generations and a call to action for all sectors to be part of Belize's transformative journey. (based on Press Release)

GoB Sides With The Cañeros Payment of more than half a million will be made after Court Ruling

July 28 - In a court ruling concerning ASR/BSI and Belcogen's lawsuit against the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) and its members, the court partially upheld the claimants request for 1.5 million dollars. The court ruled that the BSCFA, in the persons of Pablo Burgos and Canuto Alpuche, were liable for interfering with the business by blocking cane deliveries in December 2021. ASR/BSI was awarded \$520,674 in damages, and Belcogen was awarded \$43,456, both with interest and costs.

The case was filed after a five-day standoff stopping cane deliveries to the ASR/BSI factory in December 2021 by the BSCFA, which the company argued caused significant financial losses. ASR/BSI and Belcogen claimed the blockade disrupted sugar processing operations and led to substantial losses. The court, after hearing arguments from all parties, including the Government of Belize, which had reportedly offered an indemnity to the cane farmers, partially upheld their claims.

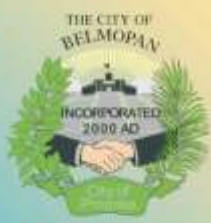
The ruling has implications for the sugar industry in Belize, potentially reshaping farmer-factory relations and definitely having legal implications to all protest actions in the future. The fact that the government may ultimately cover the damages, due to the indemnity clause, is worthy of praise as it shows that the government is willing to side with its people. Siding with the canefarmers is a pattern now by the John Briceño government whose strength is being FOR the people—teachers, public officers, stevedores, cañeros, fishers and, if you consider the OSH bill, all workers.

Is The Water In Your Drum Clean?

Clean your drum every week.

- 01 Empty your drum.
- 02 Put soap and water in the drum.
- 03 Scrub the inside of the drum with a stiff brush.
- 04 Wet a soft cloth with Clorox and rub around the inside of the drum to remove algae, dirt, and mosquito eggs.
- 05 Rinse drum with clean water.
- 06 Cover your drum with cloth. Use bicycle tube or string to hold cloth tightly in place.
- 07 Keep your drum covered to make sure that water is clean and safe.

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DENGUE AND MALARIA IN BELIZE PROJECT



His Worship Mayor Pablo Cawich,
Councilors, The Belmopan City Council &
The Area Churches
Presents:

BELMOPAN @55/25

Ecumenical Service

ALL ARE WELCOME

on Friday, August 1st, 2025
Mauvelene "Mae" Gordon Park,
Hummingbird Drive, Bmp
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we unite to pray for
continued

Peace, Progress and Purpose.

Réport Especial *Bodasand Caribe:*



Belize is stealing hearts as the destination of choice for couples seeking love, adventure, and unforgettable moments, as featured in R É P O R T's July publication, which reaches 43,000 readers in Argentina and 41,000 in Colombia. This is another magazine that

has listed Belize as a place to be romantic and to even marry. In our previous Belize Times publication for July 27, you can see how Belize has made the Forbes list of top 25 destinations listed alphabetically for places especially Americans choose to retire.

Belize has been making appearances in travel magazines ever since our economic turnaround post-2020. Belize has yielded record breaking arrivals at the PGIA International Airport and record overnight stays. Of course, these two work hand in hand. It therefore is no surprise that the romantic aspect of our destinations is one of the features that allow Belize to be a magnet for travelers and those beginning a new life together. The following is in Spanish but you can follow the link below to see for yourself. <https://online.anyflip.com/cyto/nwre/mobile/>

Romance y aventuras en pareja en Belize

Este mini país ofrece una maxicombinación única de playas de arenablanca, biodiversidad tropical, cultura maya y resorts boutique.

Las "Elopement Wedding" son una tendencia que cada vez gana más adeptas. Este estilo de boda, que consiste básicamente en una escapada especial, se ha convertido en la boda ideal de muchas parejas que no deseen grandes eventos con cientos de invitados. Por su diversidad, su seguridad y su infraestructura, Belize se viene posicionando entre las mejores opciones en el Caribe. No hay grandes multitudes y con sus extensas playas y puestas de sol doradas, Belize ofrece una experiencia comparable a los más famosos destinos de playa, con el encanto único del Caribe.

Dado que el país es relativamente pequeño, ir de un extremo a otro o de sus islas a la selva solo toma unas pocas horas. Es posible disfrutar de la playa por la mañana y explorar los fondos marinos y los arrecifes de coral al medio día en Caye Caulker antes de cenar en Belize City por la noche.

A diferencia de otros destinos, es además un destino ideal para novios. Alojarse en un resort de lujo en una de las islas, puede resultar más económico de lo que se espera, brindando una experiencia de primera. Estos resorts tipo isla privada redefinen el todo incluido desde un enfoque ecológico y personal. En algunos casos cuentan con bungalós sobre el agua, cenas íntimas y experiencias responsables con el entorno natural.

Los 5 destinos más románticos del país

Placencia: es la isla más romántica del país con muchas opciones para parejas. Además, está la "Calle más pequeña del mundo".

Hopkins: donde se descubre la cultura Garífuna, la proximidad de playas y selvas para vivir aventuras marinas y terrestres.

Punta Gorda: un oasis con una vista espectacular del mar Caribe. Entre las opciones, tours de chocolate y excursiones a las pintorescas islas de esta región.

Caye Caulker: aventuras marinas en un ambiente apacible ideal para el romance.

Distrito de Corozal: más septentrional, indicado para parejas aventureras que quieren descubrir el pasado Maya, caminar en la selva, y refrescarse en ríos.

Los requisitos para celebrar una boda en Belize

Los novios deben estar en Belize tres días antes de solicitar la licencia de matrimonio. Las solicitudes deben realizarse en la Oficina del Registro Civil o en la Oficina del Procurador General. Deben presentar una prueba de ciudadanía, como el pasaporte con foto y la fecha de entrada en Belize. En el caso de que uno de los novios sea viuda, divorciado, es necesario tener una copia certificada de la sentencia de divorcio o un certificado de defunción. La licencia cuesta US\$ 100 por pareja. Hay una tasa administrativa adicional. Puedes obtener tu licencia en dos días. Debes haber dos testigos en la ceremonia y esto debe ser celebrada por un juez de paz superior, o un magistrado de una iglesia registrada.

ENTRADA GRATUITA

NOCHE DE Esperanza

NICK NACIÓ SIN BRAZOS NI PIERNAS, ¡PERO LLENO DE ESPERANZA!

UBICACIÓN DIGI PARK BELIZE CITY

NICK VUJICIC

22 DE AGOSTO DE 2025

7:00PM

CONTÁCTENOS: +501 671-3770 O ENVÍENOS UN MENSAJE
EN MESSENGER A LA IGLESIA LIFE CHURCH BELIZE



The Voice of the Common Man

University of Belize, the Need for Capacity Building: Creating a new Venue for Strategic Development and Growth

By Hilly Bennett

The People's United Party (PUP) as a political party and as the Government of Belize has been, consistently, at the forefront of the country's development across the various sectors. During the era of the decolonization process, it was understood that the deconstruction and the breakaway from the state control of Great Britain were not solely political and economic but also cultural and educational. Over the years of political decolonization, education in Belize became increasingly focused on education for national development, notwithstanding the socio-economic and traditional deterrence which tended to prevent real reform. Nonetheless, the PUP as the government has been steadfast in developing education in Belize. Since the victorious approval by the electorate in the November 2020 general election and the subsequent March 12th 2025 super-majority mandate, one of the foremost components of PlanBelize and PlanBelize 2.0 mandates was/is supporting the development of education in Belize. The Education Agenda's committed that every Belizean, from Kinder to University, has the chance to succeed and the emphasis is on greater support for secondary and tertiary education, including UB. The support for the country's university faculty forms a part of the government's budgetary subvention, which stood at 8.5million

when the PUP Government took over the reins of the high-stool of office. Additional financial assistance was provided by the Ministry of Education which former Minister of Education, Francis Fonseca highlighted to the media at the footsteps of the Sir Edney Cain Building in Belmopan. Fonseca said, *"The Ministry of Education has provided unprecedented support to UB. In addition to the subvention that they get, we provide over five million dollars a year in assistance at the University, which is used to pay salaries and support for the students."* Showing that along with the subvention this amounts to approximately 12 million dollars.

A staged protest was held on Tuesday, July 15, by the University of Belize Faculty and Staff Union (UBFFU), in front of the Office of the Prime Minister demanding an increase in the present subvention for the university. Since the 2000s UB's subvention has been 10 million annually to partially cover its operational costs which was eventually increased to 11 million. However, when the United Democratic Party (UDP) was in government under Dean Barrow's 13-year rule, the institution's subvention was reduced to 8.5 million. The objective of the protest was to demand that the Briceño administration increase UB's subvention to 10 million. Seemingly, the UB administration promised the union a 9% increase in salaries and reneged saying that it was contingent on the subvention. The protest was subtly an issue regarding a salary increase rather than an increase in the subvention. Interestingly, the President of UBFSU, Julianne Pasos stated categorically, *"Our salary is not the responsibility of the Government of Belize. Our salary is*

the responsibility of the UB administration and the UB Board of Trustees." Hence, it begs the question of why protest the government and not the Board?

However, the Government of Belize in its wisdom has acted in good faith and increased the subvention by one point one million dollars. Chris Coye, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance issued a pragmatic approach to making the institution financially sustainable. Coye said *"When it comes to the University of Belize, I would encourage a comparison with other universities as to how they leverage their balance sheet. How they look to generate income, how they invest and generate income in a way that makes that institution self-sustainable...How can we attract other universities for exchange programs that actually can enable the charging of fees at the foreign universities' rate?"*

Incidentally, Pasos wants to link the subvention to GDP profits when in reality UB should be engaged in how the institution can contribute more to the economic growth. Coye directed his advice to a Spanish /English language program that was contributing to the revenue stream. Another program that was attracting an inflow of foreign students was the Hunting Caye Research Facility. This facility was a self-sustainable entity of the institution. Unfortunately, it was leased out to a UDP crony Dennis Garbutt and the private interest Save Mar to run and operate the UB facility at Hunting Caye. Save Mar at the time revealed interest in building a first-class hotel on Hunting Caye. President of the University of Belize, Professor Clement Sankat, along with the late Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Harrison Pilgrim signed off on the deal.

Similar to the Minister of

State Chris Coye's suggestion to make UB a viable institution, Dr Nancy Adams, Vice President of Galen University and Dr. Geraldo Flowers, Director of Development at the University of Belize in the University of Belize publication dated March 22-26, 2004 in their article illustrated how A New Venue for Strategic Development and Growth: Development of Tertiary Education can allow Belize's tertiary education to become part of the globalization of goods and services. The article detailed market estimates for university institutions in the UK and the US at the date of the writing UK 2.5 billion pounds and US12 billion a year respectively. The governments of the two countries were responsible for the marketing and promotion of their tertiary education industries and not the private sector. As the paper posits, the University should work with the Government to set mutually accepted targets for foreign student recruitment. This will allow tertiary education to contribute significantly to the economy of Belize. In addition to the economic benefits, tertiary education will reverse the brain-drain affecting the country, will stimulate entrepreneurship, the development of other industries and bring positive effects at all levels, health and society at large.

Considering, the lack of interest in continuing the language program that was attracting the interest of foreign students and the egregious act of leasing out the UB research facility at Hunting Caye to private interests, the issue of the national university is not one of subvention but a lack of capacity building to make the University of Belize self-sustainable. It's not about subvention. It is about the balance sheet and not the salary sheets.



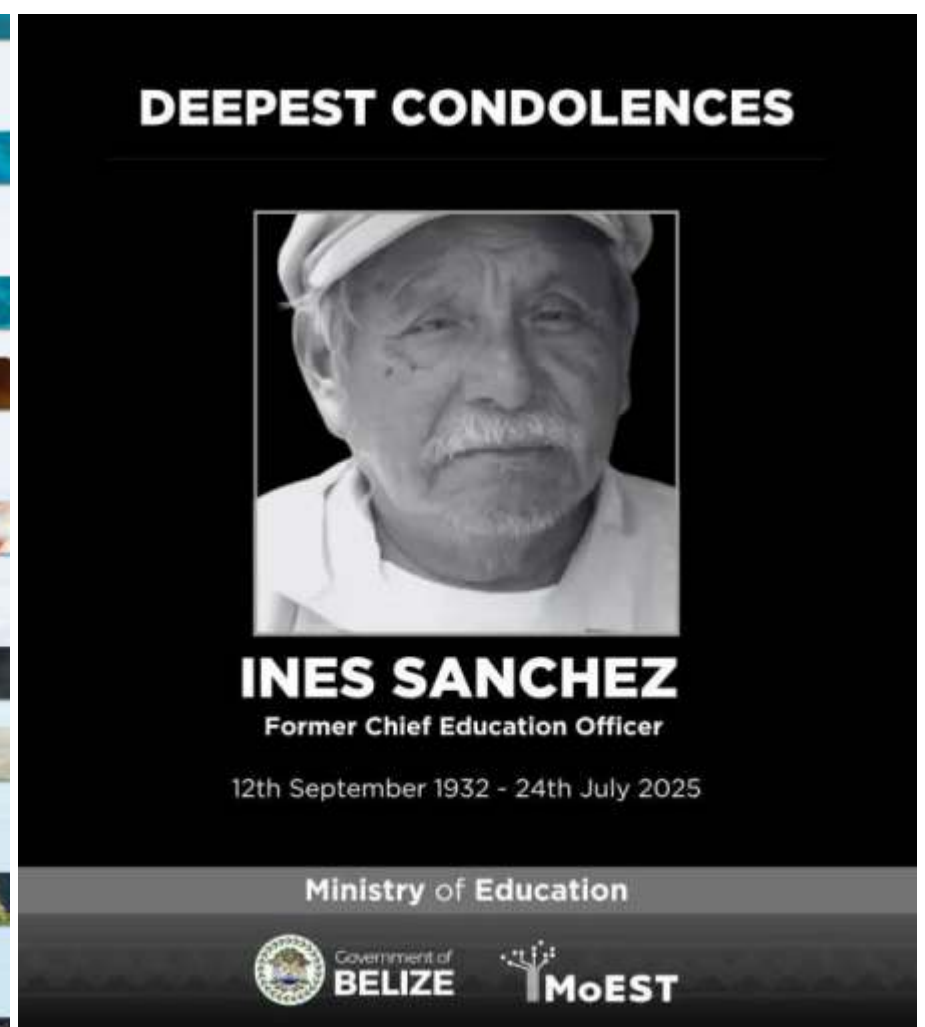
AN ECONOMIC INITIATIVE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

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DEEPEST CONDOLENCES



INES SANCHEZ
Former Chief Education Officer

12th September 1932 - 24th July 2025

Ministry of Education

Government of BELIZE MoEST



The National Celebrations Commission
kindly requests the pleasure of your company for the

Official Ceremony

for Emancipation Day 2025

1st August 2025 | Please be seated by 8:30 AM
Government House, Dr. Dame Minita Gordon Drive,
Belize City, Belize.



STRONGER TOGETHER

RISING FOREVER



Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.
Amen.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Priscilla Brown Castillo

Dr. Priscilla Brown Castillo is a distinguished educator in Belize with over three decades of experience in teaching and educational leadership. She began her career as an elementary school teacher in 1987 and contributed significantly to the development of Belize's National Primary School Curriculum while working with the Ministry of Education (1998–2000). Dr. Brown Castillo has held prominent roles including Dean and Department Chair of the Faculty of Education and Arts at the University of Belize, and has also taught at Galen University and the University of the West Indies. She holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from the University of North Florida and a Doctorate in Assessment from Durham University, where her research on problem-solving approaches in Belizean math education received international acclaim. Dr. Brown Castillo has presented at numerous global conferences and continues to engage in international leadership forums. Co-author of the widely used *Living Together Social Studies* series and contributor to scholarly works on critical thinking in education, she combines academic expertise with practical impact. Additionally, she has supported community safety initiatives through the U.S. Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) program in Belize. Currently, she serves as Curriculum Specialist and Dean of Academics at the National Police Training Academy, where she oversees police training and academic programs. Dr. Brown Castillo's dedication has earned her multiple awards recognizing her profound influence on education in Belize and beyond.

Mrs. Doreth Pascascio Griffith

Mrs. Doreth Pascascio Griffith is a dedicated educator, community advocate, and emerging leader in Belize's Orange Walk Town. With a foundation in education from Muffles College, St. John's College, and the University of Belize, she is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Special Education to further enhance her leadership in the evolving educational landscape. Mrs. Pascascio Griffith has over a decade of teaching experience at St. Peter's Anglican School and currently serves as Vice Principal at Louisiana Government School, where she champions inclusive education and inspires both students and staff. Beyond education, she is an active community leader, serving as a Councilor for Orange Walk Town and participating in the Women's Division of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), advocating for women's leadership in the Caribbean. Her commitment to equity extends through her work with the Municipal Disability Leadership Team and the National Special Needs and Disability Team, promoting accessibility for persons with disabilities in Belize. She is also a longtime supporter of the Charitable Roots Foundation and MAMA's Group, focusing on vulnerable children and women's empowerment. In recognition of her tireless frontline efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Pascascio Griffith received a Community Award in 2021. Driven by purpose and compassion, she embodies transformational leadership dedicated to community growth and educational excellence.

The Solitary Burden: Examining the Perceived Disconnect Between School Leaders and Staff

By Priscilla Brown Castillo, Ed.D. & Doreth Pascascio Griffith, ABD



Doreth Griffith Pascascio, ABD – Vice Principal of Louisiana Government School, Orange Walk Town, Belize C.A.
Dr. Priscilla Brown Castillo is an Assistant Professor with over 30 years of university teaching experience in Belize and across the Caribbean. She currently serves as the Dean of Academics at the National Police Training Academy in Belize.
Doreth Pascasio Griffith, ABD, is a doctoral candidate in Special Education at the University of UISIL in Costa Rica. She is a

discussion examines how institutional structures, workplace dynamics, and cultural expectations can reinforce a sense of solitude. Through a critical analysis of these contributing factors, along with practical strategies for fostering trust and collaboration, the article offers a framework for addressing this disconnect. A case study of students enrolled in a Masters in Educational Leadership provides real-world context, demonstrating how purposeful engagement and leadership development can help bridge the gap between administrators and their school communities.

Introduction

School leaders are often viewed as visionaries charged with setting direction, ensuring accountability, and driving school improvement. Yet behind this public-facing role lies a quieter, often unspoken reality: many administrators experience a profound sense of professional isolation. This disconnect from staff frequently arises from structural barriers such as hierarchical decision-making, role ambiguity, and the emotional demands of leadership (Fullan 2001). As a university instructor working with aspiring school leaders, I have found that this theme of isolation surfaces repeatedly in reflective practice and discussion. Principals, especially, often feel caught between policy mandates and staff needs, creating a divide that impedes authentic collaboration. A well-known example is the case of George Dei's leadership in the Jane-Finch schools in Toronto, where efforts to rebuild community trust and promote inclusive leadership revealed the emotional toll and relational distance administrators must often navigate (Dei 1996). This article draws on leadership theory, real-world experience, and case-based evidence to examine the roots and consequences of leadership isolation. It also outlines actionable strategies to bridge this gap emphasizing shared leadership, relational trust, and open dialogue as essential components of a more connected and supportive leadership model.

Historical Context: The Evolving Role and Isolation of School Leaders

The perception of isolation in school leadership has evolved alongside shifts in educational governance, accountability, and professional identity. Historically, school principals were seen primarily as building managers, focused on operations rather than instructional leadership (Tyack and Hansot 1982). However, with the rise of standards-based reform in the 1980s and 1990s, the role transformed dramatically (Cuban 1988; Hallinger 2003). School leaders became the central agents of change, expected to drive performance, lead innovation, and maintain morale, all while meeting increasing external demands (Leithwood and Riehl 2003; Fullan 2001). These changes brought with them new forms of stress and professional distance. Principals were placed in ambiguous positions accountable to both policymakers and their school communities leading to a disconnect from teaching staff and daily classroom realities (Kafka 2009; Hargreaves and Fink 2006). The introduction of high-stakes testing and performance metrics often intensified this gap, shifting focus from relationships to results (Elmore 2000; Darling-Hammond 2010). Leadership preparation programs, while evolving, have struggled to fully address the emotional and relational dimensions of the role (Crow 2006; Normore 2004). As school systems became more complex, the image of the isolated leader burdened by expectation yet removed from peer support became more entrenched. Understanding this historical backdrop is essential to unpacking why isolation persists, and how efforts to rehumanize leadership must account for both systemic and personal factors.

Critical Analysis: The Paradox of Leadership: Influence, Isolation, and the Emotional Demands of School Administration

Benefits
While often characterized by pressure and emotional strain, the leadership role within schools also provides a unique platform to influence culture, policy, and long-term growth. Principals and vice principals are positioned to shape school vision, ensure equity, and support instructional quality (Leithwood and Jantzi 2006). This strategic vantage point allows leaders to advocate for systemic improvements and allocate resources in ways that align with student needs (Day et al. 2010). The perceived distance from daily classroom life can, at times, enable broader thinking and objectivity in decision-making (Spillane and Diamond 2007).

Challenges
Despite its advantages, school leadership often entails an emotional cost. The responsibility of balancing student success, staff morale, policy compliance, and community expectations creates significant internal tension (Fullan 2001). Vice Principal Doreth Pasascio Griffith of Louisiana Government School, Orange Walk Town, Belize Central America, candidly expressed: “There are days I must enforce policies that I don't fully agree with, or make calls that are best for the school but hard for individuals. There are situations I cannot openly discuss with staff, and moments when I need to protect my team even while being criticized myself. That can feel isolating. It's not about lacking support it's about the nature of leadership requiring a level of discretion, strength, and emotional restraint that sometimes separates you from others.” This insight underscores how professional solitude is often tied to the very essence of leadership, not simply a lack of collegial support. Emotional labor, confidentiality, and the need to maintain composure can separate leaders from the relational networks they once enjoyed as teachers (Berkovich and Eyal 2015; Hargreaves 2001).

Sizzling Summer Camps 2025

From cool swimming, to visiting hot houses, to exhilarating sports, karate defense, recorder playing, making Pinatas, coding, drone flying and full STEAM activities, this year the kids have been begging for more. The truth is that a lot of effort is put by regular knowledgeable, not teachers, who share their knowledge with our futures.

Many thanks to all of them and let's start planning next year. The classrooms are more of a routine and methodical but teachers who more closely mimic summer camps and STILL teacher are in theory supposed to be the most successful at grasping students' attention and teaching in the course of the year.

Many thanks to the parents who put their trust in the system of Summer Camps. ALL the hype about kids in trouble should be trumped by all the Summer Camps that are success. Still more effort is needed to bring down the negatives to zero. Our kids deserve the best experiences as they begin to form the future Belize.





REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COLD STORAGE AND PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FOR THE BELIZE MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BMDC)

Country: Belize

Project Name: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)

Project ID No.: P172592

Loan No.: 9347 BE

Contract Title: Supply And Delivery Of Cold Storage And Processing Equipment

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-469874-GO-RFQ

1. The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of goods (*48' Cold Storage Reefers, Vegetable Sorters, Vegetable Washers, Industrial Plotters*) for the BMDC.
2. The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites Quotations from eligible Suppliers for the procurement of goods specified in Annex 1 of this RFQ.
3. Comparison of quotations will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Quotations (RFQ) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 2016 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all Suppliers as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Suppliers interested in receiving the completed Request for Quotation (RFQ) may obtain further information from the Belize Social Investment Fund, during office hours from 08:00 to 17:00, Mondays to Thursdays, and from 08:00 to 16:00 on Fridays. at the address given below.
5. Quotations must be delivered or sent via email to the address below on or before **10:00 a.m. on August 13th, 2025**. Late quotations will be rejected.
6. All interested eligible firms will be invited to quote through a Request for Quotation (RFQ), which contains the information on the Technical Specifications, Form of Quotation and Draft Contract.
7. The address referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund

Attn: Mr. Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant

P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway,

Building C, Belmopan City, Belize

Telephone: +501-822-0239

Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

Considerations

Moving forward, educational leadership development must include structured emotional support systems, mentoring, and reflection practices that address the mental and emotional demands of the role (Drago-Severson 2009). Encouraging shared leadership, open dialogue with staff, and fostering safe spaces for vulnerability can help bridge the relational gap leaders often experience (Katzenmeyer and Moller 2009). Moreover, recognizing leadership not only as a function of authority, but also as an emotional and human endeavor, is essential for retaining and supporting effective administrators (Theoharis 2007).

Case Study: Leadership Perception Among Graduate-Level Practitioners

A recent qualitative case study was conducted with a cohort of 23 practicing school administrators enrolled in a Master's program in Educational Leadership at a University in Belize, Central America. The study aimed to examine how school leaders perceive their roles, particularly regarding emotional and relational isolation. Through reflective journals, focus group discussions, and anonymous surveys, the study revealed that 90% of participants identified leadership as emotionally taxing, often leading to feelings of isolation, stress, and internal conflict.

One participant, Mrs. Diana Villanueva, a vice principal at a secondary school in Belize City, Belize Central America described this experience in deeply personal terms. "Yes, definitely, being in leadership or having a leadership role can sometimes make me feel isolated," she noted. "While leaders often work closely with others, the responsibility of making tough decisions, managing conflict, and balancing the needs of everyone... can create a sense of separation." She further explained that maintaining composure and protecting confidential information sometimes left her unable to share vulnerabilities with staff, contributing to feelings of loneliness even in busy environments. "It wasn't until now that I completely understood what that meant," she reflected.

Interestingly, 10% of the cohort did not report experiencing leadership as isolating. This divergence invites critique. It may suggest variability in school cultures, levels of administrative support, or personal coping mechanisms. Some participants may have cultivated strong peer networks or worked in collaborative environments where leadership responsibilities are more distributed. Alternatively, it is possible that newer administrators have yet to encounter the full weight of prolonged leadership challenges, or perhaps some individuals are less inclined to openly acknowledge emotional strain.

The findings underscore that while isolation is a prevalent theme in school leadership, it is not universally experienced or acknowledged. This highlights the importance of creating supportive structures that not only prepare leaders technically but also emotionally for the solitude and the strength that the role demands.

Strategies for Reducing Leadership Isolation

To address the emotional and relational isolation school leaders often face, the following strategies can serve as starting points for cultivating connection, support, and sustainability in leadership practice:

1. *Establish Peer Leadership Networks* Regular interaction with other school leaders through professional learning communities or regional cohorts allows administrators to share experiences, challenges, and insights. These safe, non-evaluative spaces foster empathy, reduce loneliness, and create opportunities for professional solidarity.
2. *Promote Shared Leadership Models* Encouraging distributed leadership across departments or grade levels reduces the pressure on a single individual and strengthens staff ownership. This model promotes collaboration, enhances decision-making transparency, and helps leaders feel less alone in bearing responsibility.
3. *Integrate Reflective Supervision and Coaching* Scheduled reflection sessions with experienced mentors or leadership coaches provide a confidential outlet for processing difficult experiences. These guided conversations can help leaders reframe challenges, regulate emotional strain, and develop strategies for resilience.
4. *Facilitate Honest Staff-Leader Communication* Creating structured opportunities for dialogue between leaders and staff—such as listening circles or open forums can rebuild trust, clarify misunderstandings, and reduce the sense of separation that often grows in silence.
5. *Include Emotional Wellness in Leadership Development* Formal preparation and ongoing professional learning must address not only instructional and operational skills, but also emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and personal sustainability. Supporting the person behind the position is essential for long-term success.

Conclusion

The perception of leadership as a lonely endeavor is not merely anecdotal it is deeply embedded in the structure and demands of the role. As this article has shown, school leaders often carry invisible emotional burdens, separated by the very responsibility they are entrusted with. Yet isolation should not be the cost of making a meaningful impact. Through intentional strategies, supportive cultures, and a broader reimagining of leadership itself, we can move toward a more connected, humane vision of educational leadership. Breaking the silence around professional solitude is not just a personal need it is a collective imperative for the well-being of our schools and the leaders who guide them.

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CONGRATULATIONS!
On a 2nd Volleyball Gold

Last Thursday, July 24 Belize made history not only by winning, not only by beating Guatemala, not only by winning at home in front of thousands of Belizeans with hearts pounding at the Civic, but by following a U21 Gold Medal in 2024 with another now in 2025. Back to back golds, is showing Belizean consistency.

The young team is doing it now and some members have two of the golds in their trophy cases. Imagine one of the players can still play seven years more in Under 23 games. Female volleyball has a lot to look forward to.

Similarly, the males just beat Mexico and opening set....lost the game but wow. With more effort Belize has a lot to look forward to. Sports is a process and we will shock the world....watch it.

Belize at U23 Panamerican Male Volleyball

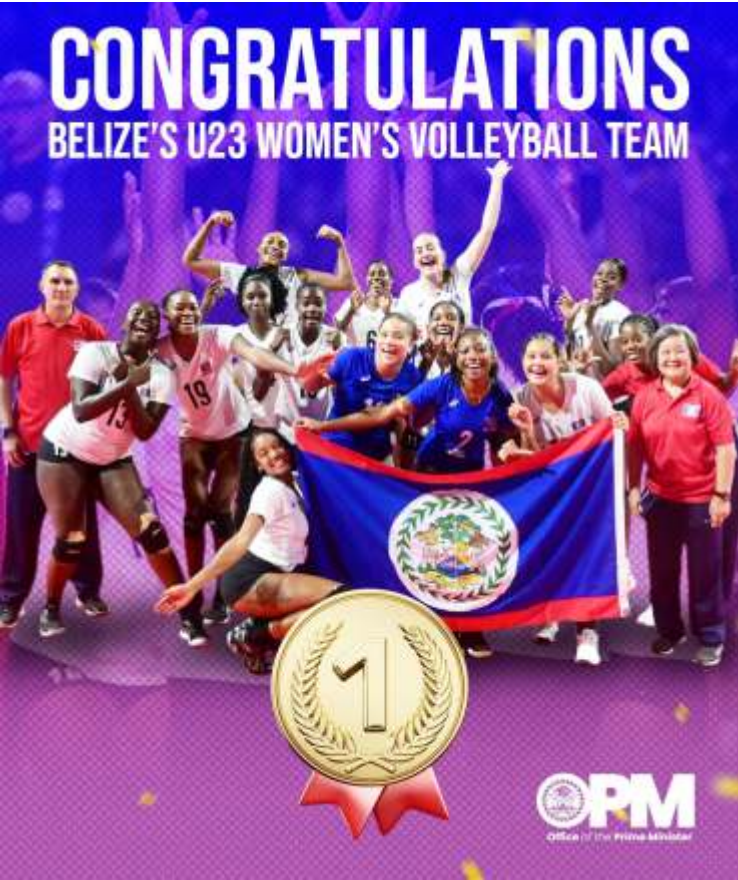
Team Belize came out fighting and showed that their volleyball level is high. Their first match was against Mexico and Belize won the first set in a nail biter.

Belice versus México in the Copa:Belice 1-3 (31-29, 21-25, 21-25, 22-25) México

They will now face the U23 Dominican Republic today Wednesday and the U23 USA.

The Panamericana Sub-23 Masculina is hosted in Guatemala while the female version is simultaneously in Mexico.

Belizeans are all beside our men in full



support just as they were for the undefeated Golden U23 Women.

Our men need to keep the energy high for the rest of the tournament and beyond There is no room for doubt.

Let's go Belize!

2025 NORCECA Men's U-23 Pan American Cup!

The competition takes place in Guatemala City from July 29 to August 3, and we're proud to see our young athletes representing Belize on the international stage.



Thea Garcia Ramirez in Corozal Bay

Un paso adelante por nuestras juventudes

It was an honour to join the Intercambio Cultural Juvenil y Conmemoración del Legado de Hugo Chávez, alongside Ambassador Gerardo Argote of Venezuela, the Belize Youth

M o v e m e n t , a n d representatives from the Ministry of Health & Wellness — Mr. Felix Rhaburn and Mr. Roger Riveroll — as well as Mr. Faustino Yam, a proud graduate of a Venezuelan training program.

Together, we explored ways to strengthen ties with the Venezuelan government and open new opportunities for Belizean students through scholarship initiatives. Education transforms lives, and we are committed to creating

pathways for growth and empowerment in Corozal Bay!

A special thank you to the staff of the Corozal Community Hospital for hosting us, Corozal Community College Dance Company for their display of our culture and spirit and all attendees.(post)





**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL
CONSULTANT SELECTION)**

Belize

**Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project
(CRESAP)**

Loan No.: 9347 BE

Project ID No.: P172592

Assignment Title: E-Extension

**Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-
487519-CS-INDV**

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified **E-EXTENSION FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENTERPRISE (MAFSE)**. The e-extension officer will ensure the development of an effective communication channel and function in providing agriculture-related information on climate-smart agriculture practices, best agricultural practices, market prices, weather forecasts and services in the CRESAP target production areas. The E-Extension Officer will work directly under the supervision of the Director of Extension. All work conducted, including reports will be overseen by the Extension Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise (MAFSE) and the Climate Resilient & Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP) team.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of **E-Extension for MAFSE**.

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Eighteen (18) months commencing September 2025.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Ana Luisa Reyes** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at "**CPR Entertainment Park**" located on Naranjal Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Angelica J. Tillett** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at "**Rihana Mini Shop**" located in August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xinhua Zhu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Golden Sky Store**" located at # 32 Cemetery Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ajay Kumar Nishad** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**A And A's Take Out Menu**" located at # 550 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **The Alaskan Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at "**The Alaskan Ltd.**" located at # 43 New Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cayin Huang/Wancheng Zheng** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Goodwill Supermarket**" located at # 2805 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhihao Dai** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**BP 2 Store**" located at # 3267 Albert Hoy Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alvaro Portillo** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at "**Alvaro's Mexican Tacos**" located on Humphrey's Avenue, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shannon Borland** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Shannito's Service Center Limited**" located in Biscayne Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shannon Borland** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at "**Shannito's Service Center Limited**" located in Biscayne Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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